

REMARKS

Reconsideration, further examination and allowance of the pending claims in light of the present Amendment and Remarks is respectfully requested.

Corrected formal drawing sheets of figures 1 and 5 that show hatching for elements 43, 50, 52 and 53, as requested in the Office Action, are attached to this response and are each marked "REPLACEMENT SHEET" as required. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the objections to the drawings.

Claims 1 and 4-25 have been amended to more clearly point out the invention and overcome the rejections set forth in the Office Action. Claims 2-3 and 26 have been cancelled by Applicant. Claim 27 is newly presented. No new matter has been added to the claims, the drawings or the specification.

Claims 1, 4-25 and 27 are currently pending in the application.

The Office Action objects to claims 1 and 15 because of confusion caused by using the same numerical reference for the terms "thrust ring" and "rotating inner ring." Claims 1, 4 and 15 have been amended to replace the term "thrust ring" with the term "inner ring" thus eliminating any confusion caused by the same reference numeral being used in conjunction with two different terms. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Further, the Office Action rejects all claims under § 112 second paragraph due to use of the word "bucking" without properly defining it. Claims 1 and 4-25 and the specification have been amended to more clearly indicate the nature and composition of embodiments of the invention covered thereby. Specifically, claim 1 and the specification have been amended to replace the word "bucking" by "opposing." Additionally, the Office Action rejects claim 26 as incomplete. Claim 26 has been cancelled by Applicant rendering the rejection regarding that claim moot. Applicant respectfully requests that the withdrawal of these rejections.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2, 4-8, 10, 14-15, 17-20 and 22-24 under § 102(b) as being anticipated. Newly amended claims 1, 4-25 and 27 are not anticipated by the references cited by the Office Action because they do not disclose each element of the present invention. Thoma (U.S. Pat. No. 5,848,565) and Thoma et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,503,535) do not disclose or teach an engagement means comprised of a flat slide rail and slide head. Furthermore, as the Office Action correctly acknowledges, these limitations form the basis for allowable subject matter. *See* 3-16-07

Office Action at Paragraph 14. Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Finally, the Office Action rejects claims 21 and 25 under § 103(a) as obvious based on Thoma in view of Thoma et al. Claims 1, 4-25 and 27 as currently amended are not obvious because the references cited by the Office Action do not disclose or suggest every element of the claimed invention. As outlined above, the cited references do not disclose an engagement means comprised of a flat slide rail and slide head. Nor do the cited references suggest or teach such limitations. Consequently, the reference combinations cited by the Office Action do not disclose or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 103(a) rejections.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, continued examination and allowance of the claims. A sincere effort has been made to overcome the Office Action's rejections and to place the application in allowable condition. Applicant invites the Examiner to call Applicant's attorney to discuss any aspects of the invention that the Examiner may feel are not clear or which may require further discussion.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee which may be required for this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.18, including but not limited to the issue fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should no proper amount be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Further, should any other petition be required with respect to this reply and amendment, the Commissioner is respectfully requested to treat this paper as the necessary petition or petitions and to charge the petition fee(s) to the above noted deposit account.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is believed that the subject application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  
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